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# Return to Race

**Motorsport Australia's strategy for  
the resumption of motorsport activity  
in a COVID-19 environment**

May 2020  
V3





# Introduction

**Motorsport plays an important role in the Australian community. In economic terms, it is estimated that motorsport contributes almost \$3 billion to the Australian economy, generating approximately 30,000 full time jobs.**

Motorsport Australia is the beating heart of a vibrant, passionate and active community, with over 170,000 participants from 972 motorsport clubs taking part in almost 7,000 events across Australia per year from FIA World Championships to social, grassroots and community gatherings.

Motorsport Australia's 40,000 licensed competitors and officials spend on average \$14,618 each per annum to pursue their passion, with a quarter of all activity based in regional areas.

It is critical to this industry and the community more broadly that we develop a strategy to manage the resumption of motorsport in the most expeditious, responsible and risk averse manner possible in the COVID-19 environment.

To underpin this strategy, Motorsport Australia has consulted broadly with a number of expert bodies and drawn upon published documentation from a variety of Peak and Government Agencies including;

- The Motorsport Australia National Medical Advisory Committee;
- The Australia Institute of Sport (AIS) – “*Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment*” published 1 May 2020;
- Virgin Australia Supercars Championship;
- The Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA);
- Motorsport UK; and
- various Motorsport Australia senior officials and event organisers.

Motorsport Australia is aware that it must develop a strategy with appropriate safety measures that are in full compliance with Federal, State and Territory Government requirements. It is acknowledged that, subject to ongoing restrictions, some motorsport disciplines by their nature, will suffer longer delays than others. It is further acknowledged that State and Territory Government regulations across Australia will be relaxed at different times and this will inevitably mean that motorsport activity must recommence in each state in accordance with the relaxation of these regulations.

The Federal Governments' National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities, acknowledges that “**...outdoor activities are a lower risk setting for COVID-19 transmission.**” With that in mind, it is important to note the following;

- Motorsport activity is conducted outdoors and, in most cases, in locations with a large site area;
- Motorsport is a non-contact sport conducted by people who are ‘isolated’ in a vehicle;
- There is no (or limited) sharing of equipment with minimal sharing of communal facilities; and
- Events can be run without spectators

This presents opportunities for event organisers to implement practical strategies to segregate different groups of people in order to comply with ongoing mass gathering regulations. Motorsport Australia will work proactively with event organisers to assist in this area.

This strategy will be submitted to Federal, State and Territory Governments for further review and approval, to ensure the safe resumption of motorsport in Australia within a COVID-19 environment.

# Key Principles

In addition to the *National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities* published by the Australian Government on 1 May 2020, Motorsport Australia has developed its own Six Key Principles that must be followed by its event organisers.

## 1. Government Guidelines

- a. Federal, State and Territory and Local Public Health Authority Guidelines must always be followed;
- b. Motorsport Australia will strongly encourage the use of the Australian Government's 'COVIDSafe App' for all event participants

## 2. Good Hygiene

- a. Hand Hygiene facilities or products must be available to all event attendees.
- b. Avoid sharing equipment, tools or apparel.
- c. Minimise shared food or group catering services.
- d. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn by rescue, recovery and medical personnel at the event.
- e. Frequently touched surfaces, work areas and equipment are cleaned thoroughly.

## 3. Social Distancing

- a. Maintain social distancing measures. In accordance with the AIS principle of '*Get in, train and get out*', this means competitors and officials should come to an event prepared and once their activities have finished, pack up and leave.
- b. Avoid the use of indoor facilities where possible.
- c. No mass gatherings including drivers and officials' briefings, officials sign on gatherings, media conferences etc. Support the use of technology (Zoom or Microsoft Teams) to replace these essential parts of a race meeting.
- d. Limit the number of personnel attending an event to those who are essential. This includes placing restrictions on the number of competitors, officials, and support personnel that are granted access to the event, in accordance with Government regulations.
- e. Event organisers should put in place practical measures to enforce social distancing requirements, including the provision of signage and creating barriers and/or markings that restrict the amount of people in any given area.
- f. Avoid unnecessary physical interaction between officials, competitors, media and other personnel. Wherever possible electronic and radio interaction should be used.

- g. Buildings such as Race Control should have signage that clearly indicates the maximum number of people allowed. Within each room appropriate spacing must comply with social distancing requirements. Signage to that effect must be displayed.
- h. Operational vehicles are to be limited to two occupants. Personnel should remain outside their vehicle until they are needed to respond to any incident.

## 4. Restriction

- a. Under **no** circumstances should anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 attend the event. This includes any fever, respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough, fatigue, or lack of sense of smell.
- b. Under **no** circumstances should anyone attend the event if they have been;
  - i. overseas in the previous 14 days; or
  - ii. in contact with someone who has been overseas in the previous 14 days; or
  - iii. in contact with a known COVID-19 positive case in the previous 14 days.

## 5. Monitoring

- a. A COVID-19 Checker will be appointed to each event by the Event Organiser whose sole responsibility is to ensure compliance with Government and Motorsport Australia requirements.
- b. In addition to encouraging each event attendee to download the COVIDSafe App, each organiser is required to maintain a complete register of event attendees and their contact details. This register, preferably electronic, must be submitted to Motorsport Australia upon request.

## 6. Education, Training and Resources

- a. Event Organisers should utilise the material supplied by Motorsport Australia (available within the Resource Centre) to ensure that their event complies with Government and Motorsport Australia requirements.
- b. Motorsport Australia will ensure that its staff are available to assist Event Organisers in the planning of their events.

# The Regulatory Hierarchy

## Government advice

- The AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment (Levels A,B and C)
- State and Territory Regulations
- COVIDSafe App
- Medical Advice

## Motorsport Australia

- Return to Race Strategy
- Rules and Regulations
- Education
- Motorsport Australia COVID-19 Resource Centre

## Event Organiser responsibilities

- Facilitating social distancing
- Monitor number of event attendees and spectators
- Size of areas
- Community engagement
- Event equipment, hygiene
- Compliance with Government and Motorsport Australia requirements

# Motorsport Australia Resumption Strategy

Motorsport Australia is committed to the safe and socially responsible resumption of motorsport in a COVID-19 environment. The AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment outlines three levels under which the resumption of sport can occur (Level A, B and C).

Having reviewed the Government requirements and consulted with the Motorsport Australia National Medical Advisory Committee (NMAC) and other key stakeholders, Motorsport Australia has developed a Resumption Plan for its various motorsport disciplines to conform with the requirements set by Government.

In the development of this Resumption Plan, two key points must be noted;

1. Motorsport is conducted outdoors with participants isolated in their vehicle. It is a non-contact sport. Whilst Level B Restrictions remain in place, passengers will not be permitted<sup>1</sup>. Rally and Offroad activity may commence but will be the subject of a specific plan developed by Motorsport Australia and the National Medical Committee to ensure the safety of the driver and co-driver whilst social distancing measures remain.
2. Motorsport venues invariably comprise a large site area which provides event organisers with an opportunity to segregate groups of people to ensure that mass gathering requirements are met. If the event is likely to have more than 10 people attend in total, event organisers will need to work with their venue and Motorsport Australia on the development of a "COVID-19 Venue Plan" to ensure compliance with mass gathering requirements.

<sup>1</sup>Unless the co-driver, navigator or passenger is a member of the same household and the relevant event regulations allow passengers.

Government Definition (Summary)	Motorsport Discipline										
	Show and Shine	Touring Assembly	Touring Road Event	Auto Tests	Drifting	Speed Events	Rallysprint (no passengers)	Off Road (no passengers)	Racing	Rally	Off Road
<b>Level A</b> No greater than 2 people. No contact allowed. No equipment sharing.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Level B</b> No greater than 10 people with spacing of at least 1 person per 4m <sup>2</sup> . Minimal equipment sharing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Level C</b> Full sporting activity. Limited unnecessary gatherings. Hygiene measures to remain in place.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✗ Not approved    ✓ Conditionally approved    ✓ Approved



## Travel Restrictions and Border Closures

Each of the State and Territory Governments will ease restrictions separately and this inevitably means that motorsport will resume at different times depending on the state or territory. Furthermore, it is noted that several states and territories have closed their borders.

Whilst these restrictions remain, it will be difficult for Motorsport Australia to sanction Australian Championship events, unless the promoters of those events undertake strategies to mitigate the risk of transmission.

These strategies will need to be approved by both Motorsport Australia and the respective State or Territory Government in which the event(s) is to be held. Staff and members of the National Medical Advisory Committee are available to work with these promoters to assist in the development of such plans.

## Obtaining Motorsport Australia Permits and Running Events

Motorsport Australia has developed a COVID-19 Toolkit and Resource Centre to assist Event Organisers. The Toolkit includes a comprehensive matrix that outlines how event organisers must plan for and conduct their event in the COVID-19 environment. The Matrix outlines all the requirements that must be adhered to by an Event Organiser in the running of their event, from start to finish. This Matrix is an expansion of the Six Key Principles outlined earlier in this strategy.

Motorsport Australia staff remain available to discuss ongoing event and permit enquiries.

Motorsport Australia and the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship are working collaboratively to achieve a specific set of requirements for the resumption of the Australian Championship.



# Event Organiser COVID-19 Matrix

Event Element	Requirement	Mechanism(s)
<b>Government requirements Re: public gatherings</b>	Organisers adhere to relevant State and Territory Government requirements	Motorsport Australia website to maintain relevant information for State and Territory
		Motorsport Australia staff available to support event organisers and to provide advice and assistance
		Motorsport Australia have developed a COVID-19 Return to Race Toolkit and Resource Centre for competitors, officials, venues and event organisers
<b>Monitoring</b>	Create a register of all event attendees and encourage all to download COVIDSafe App	Pre-event communication to competitors and officials, including entry, sign-on documentation and signage
		Motorsport Australia will continuously promote the use of the COVIDSafe App through all of its media channels
<b>Permit application</b>	Submitted to Motorsport Australia electronically	Submitted to Motorsport Australia: permits@motorsport.org.au
		Where an event is likely to attract more than 10 people, event organisers will need to submit a COVID-19 Return to Race Event and Venue Plan, providing details on the measures in place at their event
<b>Documentation and licence checking</b>	Avoid in person licence check	Licences to be checked prior to the event electronically using Motorsport Australia competition and event platform
<b>Driver and Officials briefings</b>	No gatherings of drivers or officials (or team personnel)	Briefing documents circulated and acknowledged electronically or;
		Briefings via public address system, with attendees adhering to social distancing requirements or via the use of technology (eg: Zoom, Microsoft Teams)
<b>Scrutineering / Parc Ferme</b>	Refer to the Return to Race Scrutiny of Vehicles and Apparel document for Scrutiny requirements	Competitors to complete Motorsport Australia Self-Scrutiny Declaration and Checklist
		Vehicle damage reports submitted with post-event paperwork
<b>Equipment deployment</b>	Hygiene protocols to be adopted	Equipment thoroughly wiped down prior to deployment
		Equipment deployed and operated by 1 person wherever possible
		Equipment not to be shared unless absolutely necessary, in which case appropriate hygiene measures are to be implemented
<b>Paddock, marshalling areas</b>	Avoid gathering of personnel	Social distancing requirements to be adhered to by all event attendees (1.5m to be adopted)
		Competitors to remain in vehicles whenever possible
<b>Command centre (indoors) including Race Control, Rally HQ etc.</b>	Social distancing measures to be implemented	Officials to maintain social distancing requirements (min 1.5m)
		Signage indicating maximum capacity of each room
		The requirement of 1 person per 4m <sup>2</sup> must be adhered to
<b>Medical Centre / Facilities / Isolation Facility</b>	Medical Centre configuration/staffing OR Medical Facilities in place at event (St Johns/First Aid etc.) Isolation plan - for any COVID-19 case at an event	Motorsport Australia medical response protocol to be adhered to
<b>Competitors</b>	No Passenger Rides Rally/Off Road - refer to Motorsport Australia directly for any updated conditions for Driver/Co-Driver/Navigator	Rally and Off Road competition may commence during Level B restrictions. This will be the subject of additional risk mitigation strategies to protect the safety of drivers and co-drivers whilst social distancing restrictions remain in force. Passengers in competition vehicles during Autotest and Speed events is not permitted, unless they are from the same household

Event Element	Requirement	Mechanism(s)
<b>Apparel</b>	No sharing of driver or officials apparel	All participants to provide and wear their own event-specific protective apparel
<b>Fire, Medical and Recovery Teams</b>	Vehicles to contain a maximum of 2 people when in operation, utilising PPE at all times	When not in operation, personnel to remain outside vehicles and maintain appropriate social distance
		Additional time to be factored into event schedules to reduce time pressure on incident management teams
<b>Competition Team personnel</b>	Absolute minimum personnel to attend per competition vehicle	Non-speed and speed events: maximum 2 people per vehicle including driver
		Other events to be confirmed in consultation with event organiser and Motorsport Australia
<b>Track Marshals / Stage Teams</b>	Deploy minimum number of marshals / stage team members as per Motorsport Australia guidelines	Maximum 2 persons per flag/marshal post OR road closure/ stage control with social distancing measures in place
		Utilise light systems at Race circuits where applicable to reduce marshal numbers with approval of Motorsport Australia
		Track marshals to be stationed 10m+ apart
<b>Results</b>	Communicated digitally	Posted online or emailed to competitors
<b>Podium ceremonies</b>	No in-person ceremonies can be conducted	
<b>Spectators</b>	No spectators	Spectators not granted entry unless specifically approved by Motorsport Australia
		Must be communicated clearly to competitors and via relevant media or club communications
<b>Media and communications</b>	Covid-19 Return to Race Strategy to be communicated broadly	Must be communicated clearly to competitors and via relevant media or club communications
		COVID-19 specific signage clearly displayed in all relevant areas
		All entrants to acknowledge the policy
<b>Media Centre and media attendance at event</b>	To be minimised	The requirement of 1 person per 4m <sup>2</sup> in media centre, with appropriately placed desks
		Limit total number of photographers at photo points to ensure social distancing requirements can be met
		No media conferences or one-on-one interviews with drivers or personnel – use phone or Zoom, Facetime etc.
		Consider a 'media pool' to limit numbers (eg. one event photographer to supply photos for all media to use)
<b>Food and catering</b>	To be minimised	Any fixed food or catering outlets must operate according to government guidelines on social distancing, hygiene and maximum number of services allowed in an area
<b>Support contractors</b>	To be minimised to essential providers and to adhere to guidelines	Event Organiser to work with contractors to ensure essential people only attend events
<b>Venue operations</b>	Venue operators agree to adhere to return to race policies	Motorsport Australia to approve venues for operation
		Where applicable, venues to work with Motorsport Australia and event organisers in the development of COVID-19 Return to Race Event and Venue Plans
<b>Judicial, protests and Stewards hearings</b>	Avoid in-person Stewards hearings at events, held by teleconference or video conference if necessary	Protests and appeals to be lodged electronically. Organisers to provide email address to competitors
		Hearings to be held electronically (eg: Zoom, Microsoft Teams) or in person providing social distancing requirements are upheld
<b>Post event documentation</b>	Register of all attendees to be collated retained by organiser	Submitted to Motorsport Australia: permits@motorsport.org.au

# Event Organiser COVID-19 Matrix

## Rally and Off Road

The following Event Matrix criteria has been established for the Rally and Off Road disciplines in addition to the existing Event Matrix criteria. This criteria is to specifically deal with the two occupants making up the crew in a vehicle, which are required for Rally and Off Road.

Each Rally and Off Road Event will be required to ensure that the following is met in addition to the Event Matrix.

Event Element	Requirement	Mechanism(s)
<b>Medical Declaration and Monitoring for Crew – Driver/Co-driver/Navigator</b>	Each crew member will be required to complete a Medical Declaration, and to update the declaration daily should the need arise for multi-day events	Crew members to complete a Medical Declaration for the event and advise any variation, should it present, daily for events with multiple days of competition. Medical Declaration to include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fever or feeling of being unwell</li> <li>No contact with persons presenting as having COVID-19</li> <li>No contact with persons who have recently travelled overseas</li> </ul>
	Event organisers to put provision in place to check the temperature of each crew member	Event organisers to establish Crew health monitoring by temperature checks of each crew member at the start and finish of an event. This should be considered in conjunction with the event medical response provider. The currently accepted temperature limit is 37.9° Celsius – measured by non-contact thermometer device on the forehead.
	Event Organiser to establish protocols for a crew member to report any change in their health or condition	Event organiser to have protocols in place so that a crew member can report any change in their health or condition – and that this can then be managed (by isolation as required) and all other competitors, officials etc. are to be advised to ensure awareness.
<b>Crew and competition vehicle sanitation</b>	Crew to be aware of the requirements for sanitation of themselves and the competition vehicle	Crew to have sanitation requirements available for their personal hygiene – such as hand sanitiser for frequent use during the event.
		Crew to regularly clean the vehicle especially the common contact surfaces.
<b>Crew apparel</b>	Crews must ensure that they maintain apparel as only for the use of the individual – not be shared and to be kept separate from each other	Event organisers to ensure that crews are advised of requirements for apparel.

# Event Organiser Toolkit

Motorsport Australia has developed a COVID-19 Toolkit and Resource Centre for event organisers, to assist them with running their events.

Visit the Motorsport Australia Event Organiser Toolkit and Resource Centre at [www.motorsport.org.au/COVID19](http://www.motorsport.org.au/COVID19)

This toolkit will have the following resources available:

- Signage that can be printed for Event Organisers promoting Social Distancing and Hygiene requirements;
- Guidelines for Competitors, Event Organisers and Officials;
- Examples of COVID-19 Venue Plans;
- Emergency Response Plans;
- Minimum number of Officials for permanent circuits;
- Checklists:
  - Event Organisers
  - Scrutiny declaration form
  - COVID-19 Checker
  - Venues
- Links to Government website and advice

**motorsport.org.au**  
**/COVID19**

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